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Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

Croatia and Thailand: draft resolution

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommends to the Economic and Social Council the approval of the following draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly:

Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/191 of 18 December 2013 on taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls,

Deeply concerned that the global prevalence of different manifestations of the gender-related killing of women and girls is reaching alarming proportions, noting especially that one of every two women victims of homicide is killed by her intimate partner or a family member[1] and noting the recent targeted mass kidnapping, rape and killing of women and girls arising from situations of armed conflict,

Recalling the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences[2] and Human Rights Council resolution 20/12 of 5 July 2012 on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: remedies for women who have been subjected to violence,

Recalling also the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on creating and/or strengthening synergies and

* E/CN.15/2015/1.
[1] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Global Study on Homicide 2013*.
[2] A/HRC/20/16.

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linkages on violence against women and girls[3] and Human Rights Council resolution 23/25 of 14 June 2013 on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: preventing and responding to rape and other forms of sexual violence,

Recalling further its resolution 69/147 of 18 December 2014 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls,

Reaffirming that sustainable peace requires an integrated approach based on coherence between political, security, development, human rights, including gender equality, and the rule of law and justice activities,

Taking note with appreciation of the political declaration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth session,[4] which focused on the 20-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action,[5]

Expressing its gratitude to the Government of Thailand for hosting the open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting on gender-related killing of women and girls, held in Bangkok from 11 to 13 November 2014, as mandated by its resolution 68/191 of 18 December 2013,

Taking note with appreciation of the recommendations of the above-mentioned open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting,[6]

Welcoming the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule Of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation,[7] in particular the endeavour of Member States to mainstream a gender perspective into criminal justice systems by developing and implementing national strategies and plans, in order to promote the full protection of women and girls from all acts of violence, including gender-related killing of women and girls,

Stressing the importance of the sustainable development goals as proposed by the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly goal 5.2, to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, and goal 16.1, to significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere,[8]

Stressing also that States have the obligation to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women and girls, and must exercise due diligence to prevent and investigate acts of violence against women and girls and punish the perpetrators, whether those acts are committed by the State or by private persons, and eliminate impunity,

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[3] A/HRC/23/25.

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 7* (E/2015/27), chap. I, sect. C.

[5] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[6] E/CN.15/2015/16.

[7] A/CONF.222/17, chap. I, resolution 1.

[8] A/68/970.

Expressing its appreciation for the work undertaken by the United Nations system in preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls,

Viewing with appreciation the considerable input of many civil society organizations, as well as academia, in addressing the different forms of violence against women and girls, through research and direct action in their respective communities,

Recognizing the decisions of the International Criminal Court, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights that condemn mass killing of women and girls as war crimes,

Further recognizing the national efforts to investigate and prosecute officials for crimes of sexual violence and murder in civil wars and international conflicts,

Remaining alarmed by the fact that violence against women and girls is among the least punished crimes in the world,

1. *Urges* Member States, acting at all levels, to end impunity by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators of those heinous crimes against women and girls;

2. *Also urges* Member States to strengthen their criminal justice response to gender-related killing of women and girls, in particular by taking measures to support their capacity to investigate, prosecute and punish all forms of such crime and provide reparation and/or compensation to victims and their families or dependents, as appropriate, in accordance with national laws;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to consider ways to enhance international cooperation, including by ratifying and implementing the United Nation Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[9] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[10] and its Optional Protocol,[11] the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto,[12] the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[13] the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and their follow-up mechanisms;

4. *Urges* Member States to consider translating and disseminating the model Latin American protocol for the investigation of femicide developed by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.
[10] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[11] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.
[12] Ibid., vols. 1577 2171 and 2173, No. 27531.
[13] Ibid., vol. 2187, No. 38544.

Rights, to be used as a model for adaptation at the regional and country levels and for training;

5. *Encourages* Member States to collect and analyse data on gender-related killing of women and girls, according to the international classification of crime for statistical purposes endorsed by the Statistical Commission and involve relevant government agencies, civil society, academia, victims' representatives and the international community, and provide appropriate training to relevant personnel on technical and ethical aspects of such data collection and analysis;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to promote changes in social norms that condone, tolerate or perpetuate gender inequality and discrimination and violence against women, including through an integrated and comprehensive prevention strategy that includes early and continuous educational programmes, community mobilization and awareness-raising, working with the media to address harmful stereotypes;

7. *Urges* Member States to adopt integrated and comprehensive responses to violence against women in order reduce risks of gender-related killing through early intervention and risk assessment, exercise due diligence to investigate, prosecute and sanction gender-related killing of women and girls, ensure equal protection of women under the law and equal access to justice, consider adopting an integrated, multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive approach to the investigation, prosecution and sanction of gender-related killing of women and girls to minimize the risk of secondary victimization, and develop appropriate mechanisms and enhance capacities for forensic investigations to identify human remains and missing persons;

8. *Encourages* Member States to define rape and the targeting of women and girls in war as criminal offences and war crimes, and urges all parties concerned to support the development and strengthening of the capacities of national institutions, in particular judicial and health systems, and of local civil society networks to provide sustainable assistance and access to justice to women and girls affected by armed conflict and post-conflict situations;

9. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure that appropriate sanctions for perpetrators of gender-related killing of women and girls are in place and are proportionate to the gravity of the offence;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to protect and support victims, drawing on the important role of civil society and ensuring effective cooperation between all relevant state agencies, including, where appropriate, the judiciary, prosecution services, law enforcement agencies and local and regional authorities;

11. *Urges* Member States to ensure that victims are informed of their rights, enable them to participate in the criminal proceedings, taking into account their dignity, well-being and safety, and prepare victims for social reintegration;

12. *Encourages* relevant United Nations entities and agencies, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN-Women, to support Member States in developing and implementing strategies and policies, upon request, at the national, regional and international levels to address and prevent gender-related killing of women and girls;

13. *Encourages* relevant United Nations entities and agencies, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN-Women and other specialized funds and programmes of the United Nations, to raise awareness among Member States regarding gender-related killing of women and girls;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to continue conducting and coordinating relevant research on gender-related killing of women and girls, particularly in connection with the standardization of the collection and analysis of data;

15. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to prepare an analytical study on gender-related killing of women and girls at the global level, containing disaggregated data on this phenomenon to illustrate its different forms and patterns;

16. *Invites* the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to include in their work programmes the issue of gender-related killing of women and girls with a view to promoting ways and means of more effectively preventing, investigating, prosecuting and punishing such crime, and to develop appropriate training material;

17. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.